

Christian Chapel Church
Church and Orange Streets
Port Gibson
Claiborne County
Mississippi

HABS No. MS-203

HABS
MISS,
11-POGIB,
9-

PHOTOGRAPHS

WRITTEN HISTORICAL AND DESCRIPTIVE DATA

Historic American Buildings Survey
National Park Service
Department of the Interior
Washington, D.C. 20240

HABS
MISS,
11-POGIB,
9-

ARCHITECTURAL DATA FORM

STATE MISSISSIPPI	COUNTY CLAIBORNE	TOWN OR VICINITY PORT GIBSON
HISTORIC NAME OF STRUCTURE (INCLUDE SOURCE FOR NAME) CHRISTIAN CHAPEL CHURCH		HABS NO. MS-203
SECONDARY OR COMMON NAMES OF STRUCTURE		
COMPLETE ADDRESS (DESCRIBE LOCATION FOR RURAL SITES) Church and Orange Streets		
DATE OF CONSTRUCTION (INCLUDE SOURCE) 1846-1847 , Demolished May, 1972.	ARCHITECT(S) (INCLUDE SOURCE) Unknown	
SIGNIFICANCE (ARCHITECTURAL AND HISTORICAL, INCLUDE ORIGINAL USE OF STRUCTURE) The Christian Chapel Church was a simple, good example of vernacular ecclesiastical architecture in Mississippi. The church side was originally owned by Joseph Moore, son-in-law of Samuel Gibson, founder of Port Gibson, later by the Trustees of the Christian Church. December 18, 1845, (Claiborne County Deed Book X, p 358).		
STYLE (IF APPROPRIATE) The church is an example of vernacular architecture in which simplified Greek Revival motifs were employed.		
MATERIAL OF CONSTRUCTION (INCLUDE STRUCTURAL SYSTEMS) The foundations were of brick, the load-bearing masonry walls were of brick, laid in common bond and stuccoed on the facade and side elevations. (Originally the building was left unstuccoed.)		
SHAPE AND DIMENSIONS OF STRUCTURE (SKETCHED FLOOR PLANS ON SEPARATE PAGES ARE ACCEPTABLE) The rectangular, one-story building numbered three bays on the principal facade. The building measured 41' by 56'.		
EXTERIOR FEATURES OF NOTE The facade was divided into five unequal sections which were defined by brick pilasters, without capital or bases, supporting an entablature-like lintel. The gabled roof was covered with green asbestos sheeting. The simple stucco moldings, which decorated the cornice of the pediment became the uppermost member of the entablature on the side elevations. A square pedestal with corner pilasters and a full entablature supported a simple octagonal steeple. The entrance doors were double-leaf below a paneled and glazed transom. There were four, paired windows on each side with two-over-two glazing.		
INTERIOR FEATURES OF NOTE The floor plan consisted of a nave and three, small rooms (classroom, office and restroom) in the rear addition. The floor was laid in narrow-width boarding. The walls were yellow plaster. Dark stained, beaded paneling stood behind the pulpit. The ceiling consisted of dark paneling set in a herringbone pattern with a dividing beam enriched with a large-scale patera.		
OTHER INFORMATION AS APPROPRIATE The church was set a few feet back from the sidewalk which ran along Church Street.		
SOURCES OF INFORMATION (INCLUDING LISTING ON NATIONAL REGISTER, STATE REGISTERS, ETC.) Mississippi Department of Archives and History. Statewide Survey File. Claiborne County. Church: Christain Chapel. Project Coordinated by the Mississippi Department of Archives and History, Elbert R. Hilliard, Director. Data compiled by William C Allen, Arch. Historian.		
COMPILER, AFFILIATION Marion K Schlefer, Historic American Buildings Survey		DATE December 1984